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On that date the comet will be just a little more than unit distance (the mean distance of the Earth from the Sun) from the Sun. Its motion is in a plane inclined 54° to that of the ecliptic. The nearest approach to the Earth will be June 5th, when it will be distant from us a little less than forty million miles. On that date it will attain its maximum brilliancy, 205 times that at discovery. It will then probably be of about the second magnitude. At that time it will be 68° south of the equator, so that it cannot be seen from this latitude.

The orbit of this comet is somewhat similar to that of the second comet of the year 1748. Computations show, however, that the two comets are probably not identical.

R. T. CRAWFORD.

BERKELEY ASTRONOMICAL DEPARTMENT,
May 15, 1915.

COMPANIONS TO MELLISH'S COMET.

A telegram from the Harvard College Observatory was received on May 13th, announcing the discovery by Professor BARNARD, of the Yerkes Observatory, of two companions to Mellish's Comet, on May 12th. One of these was described as "conspicuous, 28″ from the nucleus in position-angle 285°," the other as "faint, intermediate in distance in the same line."

Unfavorable weather conditions had prevented observations of this comet here for the two weeks preceding May 12th, and did not permit a verification of Professor BARNARD's discovery until the night of May 14th. The 12-inch refractor on that date showed the brighter companion at the first glance, but haze and, later, clouds, made it impossible to see the fainter one. My measure of the bright companion is:—

May 14, 1915, $13^h 56^m$; distance, 35″.2 in 285°.2.

According to this measure the companion is slowly receding from the nucleus. Stormy weather has made further measures impossible.

R. G. AITKEN.

May 19, 1915.